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Change in Homeland Security Advisory System

We have received a substantial increase in the volume of threat related intelligence reports. Reliable sources suggest the possibility of attacks against the Homeland within the next month. Indicators of strategic warning about al-Qaida's continued objective to mount simultaneous attacks in the Homeland are perhaps greater now than at any point since 9/11. Information indicates that extremists abroad are anticipating near-term attacks that they believe will rival 9/11 in scope and impact.

Intelligence reports show that al-Qaida continues to develop plans to use aircraft as a weapon in suicide attacks and continues to study countries to determine those that have the least stringent aviation security measures. In addition, the acquisition, production, or theft of chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear materials and subsequent dissemination is a top al-Qaida objective. Operatives still at large view attacks on U.S. territory as a priority and intend to pursue a range of targets, tactics, and capabilities to accomplish this objective.

The Department of Homeland Security is working with our Intelligence and Law Enforcement partners to monitor and assess all intelligence reporting relative to terrorist operations. The Department is asking Federal agencies; State, tribal and local governments; the private sector; and the general public, to be especially alert during this holiday season, and immediately report any situation that appears to constitute a threat or suspicious activity to law enforcement authorities.

**SUGGESTED PROTECTIVE MEASURES**

**General:**

- Increase situational awareness of world events and ongoing threats, and be aware of your surroundings.
- Report suspicious packages, devices, unattended briefcases, or other unusual materials immediately; do not handle or attempt to move any such object.
- Report suspicious vehicles and/or erratic behavior of occupants.
- Keep family members and supervisors apprised of your whereabouts.
- Know the location of emergency exits and stairwells and rally points to ensure safe egress.
- Make a plan for what you will do in an emergency and make a kit of emergency supplies.

**Public and private owners of maritime vessels and facilities:**

- Review all Vessel Security Plan(s).
- Monitor Restricted Areas.
- Control Access to the Vessel.
- Monitor deck areas and areas surrounding the vessel.
- Implement security lookouts and/or security patrols to ensure continuous monitoring
- Perform waterside boat patrols to ensure continuous monitoring.
- Use divers to inspect the underwater pier structures associated with vessel berthing and loading/unloading operations, including piers, docks, moles, POL dolphins, etc, prior to vessel arrival and upon vessel's arrival, and in other situations where deemed appropriate.
- Control the embarkation of persons and their effects.
- Supervise the handling of cargo, vessel stores, and bunkers.

Sincerely,

P. G. GERRITY  
Commander, U.S. Coast Guard  
Captain of the Port Detroit